

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

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State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 24, 2021

TO: CHD Health Officers, Primary CHD Epidemiologists

THROUGH: County Health Systems

FROM: Carina Blackmore, DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVPM
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Division Disease Control and Health Protection

SUBJECT: Quarantine Guidance, Post COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released updated quarantine guidance for vaccinated persons.

Vaccinated persons with an exposure to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine).
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.
- Not a resident or patient in a health care facility, long-term care facility, or other group setting (e.g., correctional and detention facility, group home).

Persons who do not meet all of the above criteria should continue to follow current quarantine guidance, as described below, after exposure to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.

Vaccinated persons should continue to follow recommendations to protect themselves and others, to include following general principles for mask use (e.g., cover the nose and mouth, tight fit against the sides of the face without gaps, and handled only by the ear loops, cords, or straps), staying at least 6 feet apart from others, avoiding crowds, ventilating indoor spaces, washing hands frequently, following CDC travel guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>) and following any applicable workplace or school guidance, including guidance related to personal protective equipment use or SARS-CoV-2 testing.

Work Restriction for Asymptomatic Health Care Personnel (HCP)

Fully vaccinated HCP with [higher-risk exposures](#) who are asymptomatic do not need to be restricted from work for 14 days following their exposure. Work restrictions for the following fully vaccinated HCP populations with higher-risk exposures should still be considered for:

- HCP who have underlying immunocompromising conditions (e.g., organ transplantation, cancer treatment), which might impact level of protection provided by the COVID-19 vaccine.
- HCP who have traveled should continue to follow CDC travel recommendations and requirements, including restriction from work, when recommended for any traveler.

Additionally, HCP who enter the room of a patient with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection should continue to adhere personal protective equipment recommendations (e.g., NIOSH-approved N95 or equivalent or higher-level respirator, gown, gloves, and eye protection).

Quarantine for Asymptomatic Patients and Residents

- Fully vaccinated inpatients and residents in health care settings should continue to [quarantine](#) following prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection; outpatients should be cared for using recommended [Transmission-Based Precautions](#).
- Quarantine is no longer recommended for residents who are being admitted to a post-acute care facility if they are fully vaccinated and have not had prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 14 days.

Quarantine Guidance

In early December CDC published alternatives for asymptomatic close contacts to end quarantine earlier than the previously recommended 14 days. ([Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing](#)). As a reminder, close contacts are those individuals who have been within 6 feet of an infected individual for a cumulative of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, regardless of mask usage.

1. If an asymptomatic close contact gets tested by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test on day 6 or later and receives a negative result, then they may end quarantine after day 7.
2. Without testing, an asymptomatic close contact may end quarantine after day 10.

In both scenarios, individuals are to be counseled to adhere strictly to public health mitigation through day 14, including correct and consistent use of a face mask, social distancing, hand hygiene, avoiding close contact and crowds and self-monitoring for symptoms.

Close contacts who develop symptoms within the 14 days should seek medical care and testing. Close contacts who test positive for COVID-19 are considered a case and should isolate for at least 10 days from symptom onset. COVID-19 positive cases should stay separated from household members to the greatest extent possible, including using a separate bedroom and bathroom, if possible.

In scenarios when quarantine is required, please note that close contacts connected to health care or other long-term care facility settings with medically vulnerable populations (e.g., long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, acute care hospitals) and other settings may not end quarantine prior to the 14-day time period. Otherwise, as appropriate, asymptomatic close contacts should be counseled about both alternatives to end quarantine earlier than the previously recommended 14 days.

The Florida Department of Health is implementing these guidelines effective immediately.

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References:

Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons:

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html#phrecs

Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html

COVID-19:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html